

House Republican Press Release

March 14, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Giuliano, Russ Gomes of Old Lyme Secure Citation, Meeting with Gov. Rell for Decorated WW II Veteran



Lt. Col James “Maggie” Megellas, the 82nd Airborne Division’s most decorated World War II officer, was honored last week on the occasion of his 88th birthday with a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly and a meeting with Governor M. Jodi Rell in a ceremony organized by state Representative Marilyn Giuliano, R-

23rd District, and Russ Gomes of Old Lyme.

Megellas, of Colleyville, Texas, the author of “All the Way to Berlin: A Paratrooper At War In Europe,” was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and several other medals for his service during the war.

“Lt. Col. Megellas and his comrades in arms in the 82nd Airborne Division were involved in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II. They served their country with honor and played a critical part in the long struggle to liberate Western Europe from Nazi Germany. When the war ended, they returned home, picked up their lives, and helped make the U. S. economy the world’s strongest. The time I spent with Lt. Col. Megellas helped me understand why his generation has been described as the greatest of the 20th Century,” Representative Giuliano said. “I’d like to thank Russ Gomes for his efforts to help secure this recognition for Lt. Col. Megellas and Governor Rell for helping to make his 88th birthday a truly memorable one.”

The citation presented to Lt. Col. Megellas recognizes his “extraordinary contributions to our country as a member of the U.S. Army Infantry in World War II” and his service as “the 82nd Airborne’s most decorated officer, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross and author of *All the Way to Berlin: A Paratrooper at War in Europe.*”

“Congratulations and best wishes for a joyous celebration with your family and friends and friends and many thanks for your brave and honorable service to our country,” the citation states.



Lt. Col. James “Maggie” Megellas, right, meets with, from left, Old Lyme resident Russell Gomes, state Representative Marilyn Giuliano, R-23rd District, and Gov. M. Jodi Rell in the governor’s office after being presented with a Citation from the Connecticut General Assembly honoring him on the occasion of his 88th birthday (March 11th) for his service to his country as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II. Lt. Col. Magellas, the 82nd Airborne’s most decorated officer in World War II, is the author of “All the Way to Berlin: A Paratrooper at War In Europe. Rep. Giuliano and Mr. Gomes organized the ceremony for the presentation of the citation.